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Dkt. 2271/73321

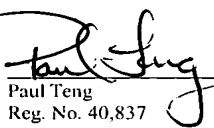
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Masanori HIRANO

Serial No.: 10/517,356

Date Filed: November 22, 2004

For: THRESHOLD VALUE MATRIX, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND PRINTER DRIVER

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
 Paul Teng Reg. No. 40,837	May 24, 2007 Date

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In order to ensure compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97(a)-(d), Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). To the best of Applicants' knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this application.

Alternatively, Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). The references listed in the annexed Form PTO-1449 were cited in a March 1, 2007 EPO Communication and European Search Report in connection with a counterpart European patent application. A copy of the March 1, 2007 EPO Communication and European Search Report is enclosed herewith. Each reference listed in the Form PTO-1449 annexed to this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be

considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

According to the August 5, 2003 OG Notice published by the Patent and Trademark Office, the Office has waived the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international application that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

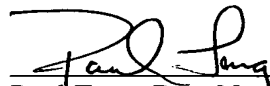
Accordingly, copies are submitted herewith for only references listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 that are not a U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 06-2140.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. 2271/73321	Serial No. 10/517,356
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)		
Applicant: Masanori HIRANO		Filing Date: November 22, 2004
Group Art Unit:		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	5 2 5 8 8 5 0	11-2-1993	Tai			
	5 6 1 7 1 2 3	4-1-1997	Takaoka et al.			
	5 6 4 6 7 3 9	7-8-1997	Kawai			
	5 9 2 0 6 8 2	7-6-1999	Shu et al.			
	6 1 8 8 4 9 1	2-13-2001	Nagashima			
	6 7 1 4 3 2 0	3-30-2004	Nakahara et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
					Yes	No
DE 1 0 0 2 6 9 9 5	3-1-2001	Germany			Abstract	
JP 2001 - 6 1 0 6 4	3-6-2001	Japan			Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	March 1, 2007 EPO Communication and European search report in connection with European application EP 03 73 3124

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.